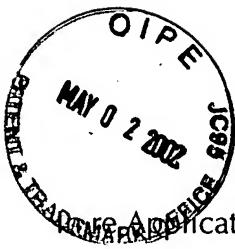


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Patent
265/221



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of:) Group Art Unit: N/A
Mark A. Hamm, et al.)
Serial No.: 10/039,627)
Filed: October 24, 2002)
For: OPTICAL CATHETER)
CONNECTOR)

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

2874

Sir:

Applicant hereby discloses to the Patent Office patents, publications, and other information of which they are aware. A Form PTO-1449 listing the above items for consideration by the examiner is attached hereto. One copy of each patent and publication cited is being submitted with this Statement.

The items cited on the attached Form PTO-1449 may or may not be material to the patentability of the claims in the above-identified application, and their submission is not

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I hereby certify that this paper or fee (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date shown below in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington DC 20231.

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to be construed as an admission that the items are material or considered to be material (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(h)), or even that they qualify as "prior art" under 35 U.S.C. § 102 with respect to the claimed invention unless specifically designated as such. Identification of any publication or patent having an issue date or a publication date after the statutory bar date is not an admission that the publication was published, or that the patent was filed, before the invention claimed in this application was made by Applicant.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed to mean that a search has been made or that additional information material to the examination of this application does not exist.

No Fee

Because this statement is being submitted prior to the first action on the merits, no fee is required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b). However, should the Patent Office determine that a fee is required, the Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-2475 for the fee.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: May 2, 2002

By:

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